

conciliate the Whigs. ' Himself, says Mary, ' thought his case so bad that he was forced to part with Lord Nottingham, to please a party who he cannot trust/ ^x Shrewsbury, Nottingham's colleague as Secretary of State, was one of the few Whigs the King trusted, but he resigned in 1690. William was much annoyed thereby, and still more dissatisfied with the reason for the resignation—that the King was engaged in measures in which Shrewsbury could not concur. The King said that Lord Shrewsbury ' did not consider how kind he had been to him ', adding ' that he had a very good understanding, but he was young and new in his place/ ²

Even more annoying to William was the resignation of Halifax. Their conversations show that William had great confidence in Halifax, and Halifax great admiration for him. Yet one feels that Halifax's admiration was tempered by criticism. All the time he seems to be studying William as a sort of abstract problem, endeavouring to estimate the character of the new sovereign from all the indications his talks afford, instead of giving his mind to the political questions they were discussing. William was more practical, and here, as Macaulay suggests,³ may have been a cause of difference between king and minister. However, in February 1690 when the Marquis gave up the seals, the

King told him ^f hee did not know where to place
 them in so
 good hands ^g, and that he would not take them
 unless Halifax
 promised ' to come into imployment againe
 when it was
 for his service '. ' I said ', reports Halifax, ' I
 would, if my
 health would give mee leave; Tush replyeth
 hee, you have
 health enough/⁴ This utterance too is
 characteristic.

William's view was that so long as a man was
 alive he had

¹ Doebner, p. 61.
 45.

² Halifax, ii. 250-1 ; Burnet, ii.

³IV, 1760-2 (xv).

⁴ Halifax, ii. 248-9.